

## LITERARY ITEMS.

The Academy says the discovery of Junius so often announced has at length, there is every reason to believe, been placed beyond doubt by the researches of the Hon. Edward Livingston, who has for the first time called in the aid of a learned and skillful lawyer in the well-known Mr. Ch. Choate. The results will shortly be made public, together with *five similes* of the autographs of Junius's Letters to Woodfall and George Greenville.

The contribution to the Byron controversy furnished in the first number of Mr. Murray's new magazine, *The Academy*, hardly possesses the importance which has been claimed for it in advance. It is a document drawn up by Lord Byron in August, 1817, while Mr. Hobhouse was staying with him at La Mira, near Venice, given to Mr. Matthew Gregory Lewis for circulation among friends in England, found among Mr. Lewis's papers after his death, and now in the possession of Mr. Murray. It reads as follows:

"It has been intimated to me that the persons under-

stood to be the legal advocates of Lady Byron have de-

sidered it to be set up on the cause of the sep-

aration between her and myself. If their lips are sealed up, they are not sealed up to me, and the greatest favor

they can confer upon me is to let me open them."

IX. THE IMMUTABILITY OF THE SPECIES.

X. HADY'S FIRST LESSONS IN MUSIC AND LOVE.

XI. A SKETCH OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS.

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THE WORK gives the WHOLE LAW OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CORPORATIONS, of every kind. It contains the American adjudications of general interest, and gives a full collection of English cases. There is no other work which is so valuable to all in law and business, and which is so easily consulted, and so easily understood, when its object was pursued, which rendered it next to an impossibility that two persons so divided could ever be reunited, induce us reluctantly then, and repeatedly, to add to the desire of the subscriber, that you must happen to cancel, and go before any tribunal, which may discuss the business in the most public manner.

Mr. Hobhouse made this proposition on my part, we

to abbreviate all prior mention of it, and it was agreed, and it was declined by the other party, as to call upon the

reader to consider, and to act upon it, in accordance with the advice of the author.

THE ALLEGED CONTRACT TO THE BURNING OF LADY BYRON.

—August 9, 1817.

I. P.—S.—I have seen, and am now, utterly ignorant of what the parties, their alterations, charges, or whatever name they may have assumed, are; and as little as possible for what purpose they have been kept back—unless it was to sanction the most infamous calumnies by "BYRON."

"La Mira, near Venice."

Mr. Murray gives a new account of the destruction of Byron's Memorials, differing materially from the narrative of Thomas Moore. Which ought to be accepted as authentic we shall not undertake to decide. The present Mr. Murray, it will be remembered, is the son of the famous publisher to whom the Memoirs were sold by Mr. Murray. The following is addressed to the editor of *The Academy*:

There are a few points connected with the destruction of Byron's Autobiography upon which a great deal of misconception exists, and upon which I should therefore be glad to say a few words.

1. To whom did the burning of the destruction of the MS. I make state that I was eyewitness to the burning of it, and of the only copy existing of it, in the drawing-room of 50 Albemarle-st.

2. The proposal to destroy it originated, I believe, with my friend Mr. Hobhouse, and he recommended for making it (as he has stated in a letter to Mr. R. W. Horatio, printed in No. 185 of the *Quarterly Review*) was his "regard for Lord Byron's memory, and respect for his surviving friends." I do not know whether the proposal met the publication might be injurious to the former and painful to the latter. The friends of Lord and Lady Byron "united in their efforts to destroy its destruction," as the following words were written in his drawing-room of 50 Albemarle-st.

3. The MS. was, I believe, the original, the absolute best, and my father, when he bought it, paid him in November, 1821, from Mr. Moore (to whom Lord Byron had given it) for £22,000, in consideration of which sum Moore covenanted to edit the papers, and to supply an account of the life of the author, even of his secret life.

On Dec. 1, 1822, however, a set of documents was executed, at Mr. Moore's request, giving to him the power of redeeming the MS., "during the life of the said Lord Byron," on the repayment by either of them of the £22,000. This condition did not, however, meet with the acceptance of the MS. until it ceased on Byron's death, by which event the value of the MS. was greatly enhanced, probably doubled. This fact, no doubt, rendered Mr. Moore more than ever anxious to realize his Autobiography, and he induced the sum of £22,000 on loan from Friends in the City to enable him to do this.

The MS., however, by general consent, was destroyed, though reluctantly, as Moore, when he received it, had no right to it, and he refused to give it to his wife, who alone was entitled to it.

4. A DISCUSSION WITH ROBERT DALE OWEN ON THE LAW OF DIVORCE.

BY H. C. GREELEY.

In one of his recent articles on the subject of divorce, he writes: "The case of the *Cat* where it was born" — "My First School House," — "Portrait of Margaret Fuller" — "My Evergreen Hedge," — "My House in the Woods," — "My Present Home," — "My Barn."

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

I. A SAMPLE OF THE SCOTCH-IRISH.

II. THE TIME THAT THIRD MEN'S SOULS.

III. BURIAL NEW-ENGLAND FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

IV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

V. A YEAR BY LYKE EYE.

VI. MY FIRST EXPERIENCE IN NEW-YORK.

VII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

VIII. TEMPERANCE IN ALL THINGS.

IX. POLITICS.

X. THE CHURCH.

XI. LOG-CABIN DAYS.

XII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XIII. SOCIALISM.

XIV. HABITUAL DRINK.

XV. BAPTIST FULLER.

XVI. BEEGARNS AND BEEBOWERS.

XVII. DRAMATIC MEMORIES.

XVIII. CONGRESS—MILEAGE.

XIX. CONGRESS AS IT WAS.

XX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXI. LAKE SUPERIOR—MINING—CHICAGO—THE PRAIRIE.

XXII. THE GREAT SENATORS—THE COMPROMISE OF 1850.

XXIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXIV. THE WORLD—THE WORLD'S EXPOSITION.

XXV. THE SLAVERY CONTROVERSY.

XXVI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN POLITICS.

XXVII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXVIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXIX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXXI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXXII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXXIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXXIV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXXV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXXVI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXXVII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXXVIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XXXIX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XL. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLXI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLXI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLXI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLXI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLX. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLXI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLIV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLV. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVI. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

XLVII. THE BAPTIST CHURCH.